providing mid-day mean in the School. The distribution of rice was stopped and no child fell sick. The NGO had been warned to be careful in future by the Zonal Authorities. An explanation had been called from the concerned school in-charge on the matter for not performing his duties.

2. In Bisur School in Sangli District, Miraj Taluka, Maharashtra, 60 children food poisoned. The State Government has appointed flying squads, Vigilance squads to check quality of Mid-Day Meal.

3. The Bihar Government has reported that in Girls Primary School, Khajbatta a frog was found in the mid-day meal on 25.9.2008. However, no child was reported to be serious ill after the incident.

(c) and (d) No Sir. As and when any instance of supply of sub-standard mid-day meal by NGO comes to the notice of the Government, the concerned State/UT Government is asked to inquire into the matter and take strict action against the errant NGO, as also to take appropriate remedial measures to avoid recurrence of such incident in future. Govt. of India does not engage any NGO for preparing and serving mid-day meal to students as overall responsibility of implementing the Mid-Day Meal Scheme lies with the States/UTs.

Semester system in universities

1119. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to introduce the semester system in Universities and allow students enrolled in a programme to earn credits by opting for selective course within the University or even at other Universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed reforms will reinvigorate our academic institutions and provide opportunities to our students to learn faster and have the ability to accommodate the diverse interests of students; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the Commission has suggested from time to time to introduce semester system along with choice based credit system in Universities. However, universities have academic autonomy to consider the suggestion for implementation according to their requirements and perceptions. The proposed academic reforms, including reforms in examination and assessment procedures, admission process and curriculum development, would, if implemented, reinvigorate our academic institutions. The Central Universities Act, 2009 [25 of 2009] establishing new Central Universities provides for academic reforms, including

semester system and choice based credit system in section 6 thereof. The Government have accorded a high priority to extending academic reforms to other Central Universities also.

Academic opportunities for SC/ST pupil

1120. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the SC/ST pupil after passing Tenth class are not getting good academic opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the exact reasons for such position; and

(d) the steps being taken to encourage and creating awareness among the SC/ST pupil through AIR and TV even in remote and agency areas in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Various steps have already been taken by the Government to encourage the SC/ST pupils as well as for creating awareness about various opportunities available to them through AIR and TV all over India, including Andhra Pradesh. News Service Division of All India Radio has been giving coverage on the issues affecting the common man and how the various schemes of the Central government provide opportunities for the development of SCs/STs, OBCs, Minorities, etc. Development Communication Division (DCD) of Doordarshan has produced programmes on various subjects, including education. The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has been imparting its educational programmes through various Gyan Darshan channel and Gyan Vani FM Radio Station. It covers whole of India, including Andhra Pradesh. Further, Society for Andhra Pradesh Network (SAPNET), have provided connectivity to selected state-run educational institutions and a large number of first generation learners at the institutions are getting benefitted from the programmes.

Circulars issued by UGC regarding admission in unapproved colleges/centres

1121. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued circular cautioning students and advised them not to take admission in the unapproved off campus, off shore campus, new developed study centre, colleges and institutions affiliated to deemed universities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons of issuing such circulars; and

(c) what is the reason that on the one hand Ministry is recognizing the deemed university and other hand issuing such a circular?